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NEWS

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Escambia County Schools Superintendent fulfills dream with Starbase-Atlantis

PENSACOLA, Fla.--With a "Three, Two, One" countdown Escambia County Schools Superintendent Jim Paul transforms into a rocket scientist. The dream of exploring the sciences of flight came true today, on the parade field at Naval Air Station Pensacola. Like any of the 21 Lincoln Park Elementary School fifth-graders, Paul satisfied a dream of launching a rocket high into the afternoon sun.

"I didn't have an opportunity like this as a child," said Paul, staging his rocket on its launch pad. "Starbase-Atlantis is a tremendous program to give students hands-on experience, enabling kids to see what math and sciences are really about. It is the application of it all that makes it fun," said the superintendent.

Starbase-Atlantis exposes students and teachers to real-world applications of math and science through experiential learning, simulations, experiments in aviation and space related fields, sea-going vessels, interaction with Naval personnel, and tours of Navy activities. A dynamic self-esteem building and goal-setting program motivates students to set goals and pursue them in a team-oriented setting.

In an orderly manner, and with prior planning, each student is briefed on the correct and safe method of launching the model they have constructed. Paul pays close attention as well. The sky is open, the sun is shining, and the countdown begins. Each student, and Paul, launches the model rocket previously constructed in the Starbase-Atlantis classroom.

"Kids being able to launch rockets that they built themselves, that's great, but even greater than that --these students now know how to do it," said Paul

Starbase-Atlantis, is an U.S. Navy program designed to serve local community youth one of many Personal

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Superintendent launches dream with Starbase 2-2-2

Excellence Partnership programs, it serves the U.S. Navy and the community by providing an inspiring educational program for children, and by reinforcing Navy Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

"The Navy has a great program here. The Navy is taking part in the community by providing training opportunities in math, sciences, and goal-setting skills," said the Superintendent "Its great that the Navy takes the opportunity to use its knowledge and training to entice children through exciting hands-on activities. The kids are proud of themselves, and any program to motivate children to learn is always great."

Editors interested in publishing digital images should make arrangements with the CNET Public Affairs Office. Contact Navy Journalist Eileen M. N. Kelly at 850.452.9110 for more details.

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